



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
09/976,983	10/12/2001	Xiaowei Deng

23494 7590 03/14/2002
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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U.S. PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

CONFIRMATION NO.
3329

ART UNI.
2818

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applic:
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Exami

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover.

DENG ET AL.

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE

three months

918

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, address -- after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of -- be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS filed communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED.
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, will expire SIX (6) MONTHS after the -- earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 12, 2001

2b) This action is non-final.

2a) This action is FINAL.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____

is/are pending in the application.

5) Claim(s) _____

is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 2

is/are allowed.

7) Claim(s) _____

is/are rejected.

8) Claims _____

is/are objected to.

are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

is/are objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage

application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 1-2 are not clearly understood because of the following reasons:

- a) It is not clear how the voltage applied between the gate and the source/drain terminals of the PMOS drive transistors and the voltage applied between the gate and the source/drain terminals the NMOS pass transistors can be the same as described in lines 19-24, page 3; lines 32-33, page 5; lines 1-10, page 6 and in last paragraph of claim 1. Since Fig. 3 of the present invention does show that the gates of NMOS pass transistor 150 and 160 are connected to the word line 210, while, the gates of the PMOS drive transistors 180 and 170 are, respectively, connected to output nodes 220 and 230; and
- b) The limitation as recited in claim 2 is not described in the specification.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-2 are, insofar as understood, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Portacci, 6,172,901.

Portacci, 6,172,901, discloses in Fig. 1 Prior Art a SRAM cell comprising: PMOS drive transistors 20 and 30; NMOS pass transistors 26 and 36; bit lines BL and \BL; word line WL; wherein: the current flowing through each of the PMOS drive transistors 20 and 30 is less than the current flowing through each of the NMOS pass transistors 26 and 36 (see lines 23-30, column 7).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Marr et al., 6,172,899, Kim, 5,684,735, and Walker et al., 4,320,312.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRONG PHAN whose telephone number is (703) 308-4870 and email address is trong.phan@uspto.gov



TRONG PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 4, 2002